

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's comments, including the Office Action mailed January 5, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Summary of rejections and amendments

The Examiner previously rejected claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). The Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 21, 24 and 25. Claims 1-25 are therefore pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that "the phrase 'which obtain for the business process' is unclear since it is not understood what is supposed to be obtained." As previously pointed out by the Applicant, this language is believed to be clear. The Applicant has nevertheless amended the claim to use the language "apply to the business process" in place of "obtain for the business process," and believes that the new language provides further basis to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,379 ("Vora"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and reasserts the remarks made in previous papers.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include determining whether the second position is associated with the selected role and to recite limitations (c)-(e), now (d)-(f), positively. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Vora reference previously cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest these limitations, which were not previously considered by the Examiner. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be patentably distinguished from this reference. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-23 (which depend from claim 1) are believed to be allowable.

As to claim 24, the Examiner states that Vora discloses approval matrices (citing item 164 of Figure 5J). The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Instead of disclosing an approval

matrix, Vora discloses a display for generating reports (col. 14, lines 37-52). The report generation display of Vora is not used to select roles, and more particularly is not used to select roles based on trip points, as previously recited in claim 24.

The Applicant has nevertheless amended claim 24 to recite that the approval matrix identifies a plurality of potential conditions and corresponding approval roles for the business process. The amendment of claim 24 (as well as the amendment of claim 4) provides additional detail relating to the approval matrix, as suggested by the Examiner. Vora clearly does not disclose an approval matrix that identifies any type of potential conditions for a business process or corresponding approval roles for the business process, as recited in the claims. Claim 24 is therefore patentably distinguished from this reference. Accordingly, claim 24 and claim 25 (which depends from claim 24) are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all claims pending in the application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain. If any extensions of time are necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, the Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. If any fees are inadvertently omitted, or if any additional fees are required, or if any amounts have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3085 of the Law Offices of Mark L. Berrier.

Respectfully submitted,



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